

Announcing California Process for 2005 USEPA Targeted Watersheds Grant Program

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently announced its third annual [call for nominations](#) for the “Targeted Watersheds Grant Program” (formerly called the Watershed Initiative). This program may provide funds for support of community-based watershed partnerships to conduct activities that achieve measurable clean water goals.

For fiscal year 2005, Congress has appropriated \$10 million for projects competing on a nation-wide basis; an additional \$8 million will be directed toward projects in the Chesapeake Bay watershed only. Typical grant awards for the selected watersheds are expected to range from \$600,000 to \$900,000. The program will place special emphasis on water quality trading projects this year.

Only those programs that have completed watershed assessments, developed technically sound watershed plans, and are ready for on-the-ground work will qualify. Applicants must meet all criteria for eligibility (Section III), content and form of nomination package (Section IV B), and format (Section IV C) described in the “Targeted Watersheds Grant Program: Call for Nominations” document. This document can be found at: <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-WATER/2005/February/Day-18/w3184.htm>.

The Watersheds Grant Program is very competitive. Applicants should carefully read the evaluation criteria in the document referenced above before considering whether to put in the time and effort needed to apply.

Nominations must be submitted to EPA by a governor or tribal leader. Each state governor may submit up to 2 in-state watershed nominations but may submit an unlimited number of interstate nominations to EPA (Regional Office) for this competition. Tribal leaders may submit nominations directly to EPA. In order for the state of California to participate in this process, we must have all applications in by April 7, 2005. If you are interested, please provide the following:

- 1) Three (3) hard copies of your nomination to:

Cathy Bleier
California Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

- 2) One electronic file of the title page, abstract, project description, and budget form only to cathy.bleier@resources.ca.gov. This file must be limited to 120 KB in size and must not include any maps, letters of support, match certifications, or pictures.